

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-14 (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) Device (10, 22) for analgesic immobilization for use in cases of thorax ~~resp. or~~ rib fractures, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the immobilizing device (10, 22) comprises a flat single-piece splint element (12, 24) being rigid in itself and covering a large part of the fracture area (19) including the fractured rib (16) on both sides of the fracture (14) and at least the neighboring ribs (15, 17), and that the side of immobilizing device (10, 22) facing the body is provided with an appropriate adhesive layer (11, 26) for adhering the immobilizing device (10, 22) to the body.

16. (currently amended) Immobilizing device according to claim 15 **characterized in that** the splint element ~~(10, 22)~~ (12, 24) can be fitted on the outside contour of the thorax without any additional aid or tool.

17. (currently amended) Immobilizing device according to claim 15 **characterized in that** the splint element ~~(10, 22)~~ (12,

24) consists of a plastically deformable plastic plate.

18. (currently amended) Immobilizing device according to claim 15 **characterized in that** the splint element ~~(10, 22)~~ (12, 24) consists of a plastically deformable metal plate.

19. (previously presented) Immobilizing device according to claim 18 **characterized in that** the plastically deformable metal plate is made of aluminium.

20. (new) Immobilizing device according to claim 19 **characterized in that** the plastically deformable metal plate is corrugated in order to improve the local deformability enlarging at the same time the rigidity, where the crests of corrugations in the plate run essentially parallel to the ribs to be treated.

21. (currently amended) Immobilizing device according to claim 15 **characterized in that** the splint element (12, 24) is provided with a covering (23, 25) on its upper and/or lower surface.

22. (previously presented) Immobilizing device according to claim 21 **characterized in that** the covering (23, 25) at the upper and/or lower surface consists of a tissue or of an elastic, preferably open-pored foam.

23. (previously presented) Immobilizing device according to claim 15 **characterized in that** it is provided with a protecting foil (27) for protecting covering of the upper side of the splint element (12, 24).

24. (previously presented) Immobilizing device according to claim 23 **characterized in that** the protecting foil (27) over splint element (12, 24) is developed so that it is larger on the sides forming thereby a surrounding rim (28) as a strip, and that the protecting foil (27) is provided with an adhesive layer on its bottom side.

25. (previously presented) Immobilizing device according to claim 24 **characterized in that** the immobilizing device (10, 22) comprises also a local analgesic agent.

26. (previously presented) Immobilizing device according to claim 25 **characterized in that** the analgesic agent is contained in a pad or cushion contacted to the immobilizing device (10, 22) via a releasable bond.

27. (previously presented) Immobilizing device according to claim 25 **characterized in that** parts of the adhesive layer (11, 26) or the whole adhesive layer (11, 26) is provided with an

analgesic agent.

28. (new) Immobilizing device according to claim 15 characterized in that the splint element (12, 24) is provided with holes, e.g. in form of a perforation.

29. (new) Device (10, 22) for analgesic immobilization for use in cases of thorax or rib fractures, characterized in that the immobilizing device (10, 22) comprises a flat splint element (12, 24) being rigid in itself and covering a large part of the fracture area (19), that the side of immobilizing device (10, 22) facing the body is provided with an appropriate adhesive layer (11, 26) for adhering the immobilizing device (10, 22) to the body, that the splint element (12, 24) consists of a plastically deformable metal plate, that the plastically deformable metal plate is made of aluminium, and that the plastically deformable metal plate is corrugated in order to improve the local deformability enlarging at the same time the rigidity, where the crests of corrugations in the plate run essentially parallel to the ribs to be treated.

30. (new) Device (10, 22) for analgesic immobilization for use in cases of thorax or rib fractures characterized in that the immobilizing device (10, 22) comprises a flat splint element (12, 24) being rigid in itself and covering a large part of the

fracture area (19), that the side of immobilizing device (10, 22) facing the body is provided with an appropriate adhesive layer (11, 26) for adhering the immobilizing device (10, 22) to the body, and that it is provided with a protecting foil (27) for protecting covering of the upper side of the splint element.

31. (new) Immobilizing device according to claim 30 characterized in that the protecting foil (27) over splint element (12, 24) is developed so that it is larger on the sides forming thereby a surrounding rim (28) as a strip, and that the protecting foil (27) is provided with an adhesive layer on its bottom side.